



news

Business **RECYCLING** Assistance Program

Waste Management Information for South Carolina Businesses

June 20, 2003

USC's Industrial Ecology Program joins Business Recycling Assistance Program

COLUMBIA, SC – The University of South Carolina's (USC) Industrial Ecology Program (IEP) has joined the Business Recycling Assistance Program (B-RAP).

USC's IEP helps industry balance environmental and economic performance while taking into account local and global ecological concerns and constraints. The program focuses on assisting industry reduce production costs through materials and energy efficiency, waste reduction and recycling, waste market development and eliminating practices that may result in not complying with environmental regulations.

"Adding the experience and resources of the IEP enhances the technical assistance services we provide for our business and industrial clients," said Karen Owens, B-RAP project manager. "Their ability to concentrate on potential end-users of unusual or difficult-to-market waste streams is a great benefit. The old adage about one person's waste being another's treasure can really be true in the business world, and we see it many times."

Through its Waste Market Development Program, IEP staff retrieve samples of industrial by-products where readily available markets may not exist or be immediately obvious to the generator. They develop a list of potential companies throughout the state and region that may be able to incorporate this other business' "waste stream" as part of their manufacturing process. They distribute samples and specifications as well as offer to assist with any preliminary materials testing. Once they identify end-users that are willing to go to the next step, they introduce the two parties and let them negotiate mutually beneficial contracts to transfer the "waste" to the other's facility.

"Adding the experience and resources of the Industrial Ecology Program just enhances the technical assistance services we provide for our business and industrial clients."

– Karen Owens, B-RAP project manager

"It's a true win-win scenario because Business A is no longer paying to dispose of this waste material and Business B in many cases is getting a low-cost alternative for use as a feedstock," said LeAnn Herren, director of IEP. "And it reduces the amount of material going to the landfill, too."

IEP also helps industry through the following activities:

- Identifying opportunities to decrease the load on municipal infrastructure for sewer and landfills;
- Looking at process optimization to reduce demand on natural resources, such as drinking water;
- Improving economic performance and competitiveness through on-going waste reduction, reuse and recycling activities; and
- Offering assistance in implementing an environmental management system under the direction of IEP staff.

Established in 2001, B-RAP provides a one-stop shop for a variety of free technical assistance to South Carolina businesses and industry, government agencies and other organizations interested in recycling, reusing, reducing waste disposal costs and improving their bottom line.

In addition to IEP, the partnership includes the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Center for Waste Minimization and the Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling as well as the S.C. Recycling Market Development Advisory Council, managed within the S.C. Department of Commerce.



Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

1-800-768-7348

www.scdhec.net/recycle



We perform. You win.

ABOUT THIS ARTICLE: "B-RAP News" is published by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Center for Waste Minimization and Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, the S.C. Department of Commerce's Recycling Market Development Advisory Council and the University of South Carolina's Industrial Ecology Program.

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